

The Youth Group

So much to report!

The Youth Group continues to grow and contribute to our Church life as well as in serving the community. They once again participated in the Easter morning Sunrise Service which has become a particularly beloved service for our young people, as Jeff was the first to initiate the service and see it through. Their prayer is that the Sunrise Service will continue to grow in future years.

We had a large number of the group participate in the Canadian Cancer Relay for Life held June 19-20. They raised over \$2,000 this year! It was a sad Relay this year as they honoured and remembered the late Shuling Chen and our dear Jeff. We were joined by the mother of young George who had passed away over three years ago and she expressed tremendous gratitude and admiration at the dedication of our young people. It was a very touching time for us all. These terrific young people walked on a very chilly evening for 12 hours, in the hopes that this deadly disease that devastates so many, will one day be eradicated.

After a short break, the Youth Group met on a number of occasions to prepare for Vacation Bible School which took place from August 3-7. All of our counsellors other than Margarita and myself, were members of our Youth Group and they did a tremendous job!! They worked every day the week before VBS setting up, preparing their classes, decorating and finalizing scheduling details. The children that came were welcomed with enthusiasm, kindness and energy by this very special group of teens. Our Church is truly blessed to have these wonderful Christian role models for our younger children.

The counsellors, children and parents would like us to offer 2 weeks of VBS next year, so I have a year to rest up!!!

A huge thank you to Peter Sabourin for his patience, encouragement and tremendous help over the VBS week. His support was invaluable!!

And now on to 2015-2016!!! The Group will once again be involved with community service as well as helping wherever needed in and around the Church. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and brainstorming together on plans for the coming year. A date already set is the Youth Retreat being held once again at Villa St-Martin, from January 8-10, so mark this important event in your calendars if you know of any young people who would like to attend.

We welcome all young people in Grades 6 through 11, who might like to join this energetic, friendly and fun group - please contact us at 450-689-4379 or email grammy.shani@sympatico.ca.

*Art and Sharon Dworzak
Youth Group Leaders*

Church School Activities

There is great joy!

The Church School once again welcomed the Congregation to join them in a number of our events and we were delighted to have such a great turnout for our Annual Cabane a Sucre, held once again at Sucrerie de la Montagne. We were blessed with a beautiful day so we were able to enjoy not only the food and entertainment, but young and old also enjoyed exploring the grounds and shops after lunch.

Our Church School children participated in both the Mothers Day Service as well as Honoring Fathers Sunday. Some read the scriptures and others ushered with their parents. Young Rowan Luckow did double-duty this year, ushering with his Grandmother on Mothers Day and then again with his dad on Honoring Fathers Sunday. Our young people feel very comfortable and welcome in the Sanctuary and enjoy participating in Sunday worship. We look forward to having them participate more often in the coming year.

Jonathan Oldengarm treated the children one Sunday to an informative and fun presentation of the organ. They were mesmerized as he talked about the workings of the organ and the various sounds he could create!! Thank you Jonathan!!

Our Church School Celebration and Luncheon was well attended as we welcomed the Congregation to join us in the Quiet Garden. It was a beautiful, sunny day and a great time of fellowship as our Church School and Congregation spent time together. Our Senior Class/Youth Group were a great help in setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Luncheon. We can always count on them!!!

Our Vacation Bible School was a resounding success again this year as we welcomed 27 children to join us in a week of learning, fun and fellowship. New friendships were formed, wonderful stories were told, exciting games and science experiments as well as terrific crafts were enjoyed by all. Once again Trafalgar School invited us to use their gym one afternoon and on another afternoon they a "Mini Water Park" on the lawn! Our enthusiastic and energetic counsellors made it a very special week for all our children and we look forward to VBS 2016!!!

Coming up in September is Welcome Back Sunday and Apple Picking which is tentatively set for September 27 (to be confirmed), followed by the Pumpkin Ball on October 30th.

I would like to thank all of our wonderful teachers and volunteers who have dedicated so much time, energy and care into our Church School program each Sunday. Without their devotion, Church School could not function or grow. I look forward to all of you returning in September and we welcome a couple of new teachers to our staff – Karin-Ann Goral and Michael Lasalle. If anyone else would like to help out in teaching, special events or "shepherding" (supervision), you are most welcome to join our team. There is always room for more help!!

*Sharon Dworzak
Church School Coordinator*